



Earl Jarrett (centre), general manager of Jamaica National Building Society, one of the sponsors of the Rex Nettleford Foundation, shares a point with (from left) Sir Shridath Ramphal, Chancellor Emeritus, UWI and chairman of the foundation; Beverley Pereira, University counsel, UWI; Pat Bishop from Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice Chancellor of UWI Nigel Harris, at the launch of the foundation on Friday. (Photo: Marlon Reid)

This one's for you, Rex

BY DONNA HUSSEY-WHITE
Observer staff reporter

THE University of the West Indies (UWI) on Friday formally launched the Rex Nettleford Foundation in memory of the late icon who left his indelible mark on the institution.

The foundation will support scholars and programmes that promote the strengthening of West Indian society in the areas of social and cultural development through research, community service and intellectual excellence, hallmarks of the man they

called Rex.

The foundation will also seek to produce young leaders who will grasp the importance of public service based on integrity, who have a desire to protect the weak, and who will use their energies and talents for the betterment of humankind.

In outlining the objectives of the foundation, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and chairman of the foundation, said the institution which was established on May 28, was created as a charitable

organisation and would need donations to carry out its duties.

"The foundation will take necessary contribution by way of donations so it can carry out its purpose," he said. "I want to appeal to Jamaica, to the Caribbean, the Diaspora and the global village where Nettleford's presence was felt, to help us in this venture."

The aim, he said, was to source funding for projects that would provide opportunities for young people to help them understand the importance of exploring the creative imagination, strengthen their own sense of self-worth and self-expression, and "thus endure the renewal of the human spirit".

Nettleford who died in a United States hospital on February 1, this year, a day before his 77th birthday, was a well-known Caribbean scholar, trade union educator, social and cultural historian and political analyst. He was a former Rhode Scholar, Vice Chancellor Emeritus at the UWI, the co-founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of the internationally acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica.

Nettleford was also well known as an authority on development and cultural dynamics.